

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FEAE-00 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01

EURE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /137 W

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O R 101005Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6083

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 8151

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TEXT OF SECOND GREEK GOVERNMENT NOTE TO GOVERNMENT
OF TURKEY RE SISMIC I

REF: ATHENS 8137

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AS CARRIED IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN

THE FULL ENGLISH TEXT OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT NOTE HANDED YESTERDAY (AUGUST 9) BY MR. COSMADOPOULOS, GREEK AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA, TO THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT

"1. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD EVERY REASON TO HOPE THAT AS LONG AS NEGOTIATIONS WERE CONTINUING WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON THE QUESTION OF DELINEATING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE AEGEAN, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE NO MEASURE WHATEVER, OR PROCEED WITH ANY ACT WHOSE NATURE COULD PREVENT SUCCESS OF SUCH TALKS.

"2. NEVERTHELESS, ON MARCH 14, 1976, TURKISH ENERGY MINISTER, MR. KILICH DECLARED PUBLICLY THAT A VESSEL SPECIALLY EQUIPPED TO SURVEY THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WOULD OPERATE IN AREAS WHICH, AS THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE UNAWARE OF, WERE CONSIDERED BY GREECE ON THE STRENGTH OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS BELONGING TO THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF.

3. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DID NOT FAIL TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN ON THE MATTER TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, BY A REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE LATTER'S INTENTIONS VERBALLY SUBMITTED BY GREEK AMBASSADOR MR. COSMADOPOULOS TO H.E. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON MARCH 17, 1976. THIS REQUEST WAS FOLLOWED BY A MEMORANDUM TO THE SAME EFFECT, ADDRESSED BY THE GREEK EMBASSY IN ANKARA TO THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MARCH 24, 1976. NEITHER STEP HAS BEEN GIVEN A SATISFACTORY REPLY.

"4. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, AND ON THE OCCASION OF THE MEETING HELD BY EXPERTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN BERN ON JUNE 19 AND 20, THE GREEK NEGOTIATOR DREW ATTENTION OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION AT A FULL SESSION, AND OF ITS LEADER, IN THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, ON THE SIGNIFICANCE WITH WHICH GREECE ATTACHED TO THE NEED FOR EITHER COUNTRY TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY MEASURE OR ACT THAT MIGHT CAUSE THE SITUATION TO DETERIORATE IN THE AEGEAN SEA OR LAY DOWN THE FINAL RIGHT OF THE TWO PARTIES. THE EXECUTION OF SEISMIC UNCLASSIFIED

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RESEARCH BY THE TURKISH SURVEY VESSEL M.T.A. SISMİK I, WITHOUT GREEK GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT IN AREAS WHICH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED AS BELONGING TO THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF, WAS PARTICULARLY UNDERLINED IN THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION, AS BEING A MATTER WHICH VIOLATED THE RIGHTS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND COULD CAUSE THE SITUATION TO DETERIORATE IN THE AEGEAN.

"5. EVEN RECENTLY, IN THE COURSE OF TWO DISCUSSIONS WITH H.E. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON JULY 21 AND 23, 1976, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TO ANKARA REITERATED IN THE CLEAREST POSSIBLE MANNER THE CONCERN THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD FEEL IN CASE ITS RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED BY SOME SURVEY OF GREECE'S CONTINENTAL SHELF WITHOUT ITS APPROVAL. HE ALSO STRESSED THE UNFAVORABLE CONSEQUENCES WHICH SUCH AN ACT WOULD ENTAIL IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ON THE SITUATION IN THE AEGEAN IN GENERAL.

"6. AS A SEQUEL TO THESE DISCUSSIONS, AND IN ITS DESIRE TO FORESTALL SUCH UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT STUDIED CERTAIN VERBAL ASSURANCES GIVEN BY H.E. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE GREEK AMBASSADOR. IT WAS A MATTER OF CONFIRMING THAT EXPLORATION BY THE SISMİK I WOULD BE PURELY SCIENTIFIC AND THAT, WHATEVER HAPPENED, GREECE'S SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF WOULD NOT BE TOUCHED. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD SUGGESTED THAT IT BE GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE ON THE COURSE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE SISMİK I TO AVOID SUBSEQUENT UNDESIRABLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, AND THAT THE RESULTS OF SUCH PURELY SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION BE PUBLISHED. BEFORE EVEN BEING INFORMED OF THE VIEWS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAD EARLIER SAID HE COULD NOT SPARE THE TIME TO RECEIVE THE GREEK AMBASSADOR, MADE A STATEMENT OVER THE TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION THE CONTENTS OF WHICH PUT AN END TO SUCH THOUGHTS.

"7. BETWEEN 19:45 HRS. ON AUGUST 6, 1976, AND 00 30 HRS. ON AUGUST 7, THE TURKISH VESSEL M.T.A. SISMİK I
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WAS REPORTED CONDUCTING SEISMIC EXPLORATION OPERATIONS OVER THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF, SPECIFICALLY IN AN AREA INCLUDED BY THE FOLLOWING BEARINGS:
LATITUDE 39 26.5 NORTH - LONGITUDE 25 50.5 EAST

"	39 25	"	-	"	25 48	"
"	39 22	"	-	"	25 45	"
"	39 23	"	-	"	25 44	"
"	39 26	"	-	"	25 45	"
"	39 28	"	-	"	24 44	"
"	39 30	"	-	"	25 43	"

"ON AUGUST 7, 1976, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT PROTESTED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AGAINST SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BY THE SISMİK I AND REQUESTED THAT ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO AVOID A REPETITION IN FUTURE.

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ACTION EUR-12

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EURE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /137 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6084

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

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8. THIS PROTEST WAS REJECTED BY THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENT BY ITS NOTE NO. SIGM/SIMD/3-754, 526 4432
DATED THE 8TH INSTANT, USING ARGUMENTS WHICH THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT. IN PARTICULAR, THE CLAIM THAT
DELINEATION HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN EFFECTED DOES NOT JUSTIFY
ACTS WHICH CREATE TENSION AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO
SETTLE THE DIFFERENCE. BESIDES, SINCE THE TURKISH
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GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO QUESTION THE GREEK ATTITUDE IT SHOULD RATHER THAN TAKING ANY ACTION, HAVE LAID THE MATTER BEFORE A CONSTITUTED INTERNATIONAL BODY WHICH COULD JUDGE THE SOUNDNESS OF ITS CLAIMS. IT IS A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF LAW THAT THE BURDEN OF PROOF LIES WITH THE PARTY THAT RAISES DOUBT. ON THE OTHER HAND, BY TAKING ACTION, THE PARTY IN QUESTION INDULGED IN ARBITRARINESS.

"9. IN SPITE OF THE ABOVE, THE TURKISH VESSEL CONTINUED ITS ILLEGAL SEISMOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF FROM AUGUST 7 AND 11:20 TO AUGUST 8 AT 13:30. EXPLORATION RESUMED AT 15:300 HOURS ON AUGUST 8 AND CONTINUED UP TO 18:00 HOURS. THE AREA EXPLORED LAY WITHIN THE FOLLOWING BEARINGS:

LATITUDE 39 25 NORTH - LONGITUDE 25 24 EAST

"	39 22.5	"	-	"	25 47.2	"
"	39 20	"	-	"	25 40	"
"	39 20.7	"	-)	"	25 37	"
"	39 25.8	"	-	"	25 32.6	"
"	39 34	"	-	"	25 25.2	"
"	39 40	"	-	"	25 23.5	"
"	39 40	"	-	"	25 27.2	"
"	39 30.7	"	-	"	25 33.5	"
"	39 22.2	"	-	"	25 38.7	"
"	39 22.5	"	-	"	25 41.3	"
"	39 34.5	"	-	"	25 36	"
"	39 43.5	"	-	"	25 28.5	"
"	39 42	"	-	"	25 32.2	"
"	39 29.6	"	-	"	25 43.5	"
"	39 24.9	"	-	"	25 48	"
"	39 27.4	"	-	"	25 48.2	"

"10. AT TIMES, THE SURVEY VESSEL WAS ESCORTED BY A HELICOPTER OR NAVAL COOPERATION AIRCRAFT, OR A MINESWEEPER OF THE TURKISH FLEET WHICH IS TANTAMOUNT TO CONDITIONS OF PARTICULARLY BLAMEWORTHY VIOLATION OF GREEK SOVEREIGN RIGHTS.

"11. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT PROTESTS MANIFESTLY AND STRONGLY AGAINST FURTHER SUCH ACTS BEING CARRIED OUT WITHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ITS APPROVAL IN VIOLATION OF RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND CALLS ON THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO PUT AN END

TO SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AND REFRAIN FROM ANY FURTHER
PROVOCATIVE ACTS. IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT SUCH ACTI-
VITIES CANNOT ALTER GREECE'S RIGHTS TO THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF IN THE AEGEAN SEA BELONGING TO HER, RIGHTS OF
WHICH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HEREBY DECLARES FULL
RESERVATION."

END TEXT

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